



*News From*

# JACK DOYLE

## MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**For Immediate Release**

Monday, August 20, 2001

## **DOYLE ANNOUNCES IMPROVEMENTS AT POWDER MILLS PARK**

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle today at a news conference announced improvements to the water wheel and to the eroding banks along the Irondequoit Creek in Powder Mills Park. In addition, County Executive Doyle honored the League of Women Voters for their participation in the Community Water Watch Program.

"The completion of this project is good news for both fishing enthusiasts and skiers," said Doyle. "The bank enhancements mean a constant flow of fresh oxygen for the trout, which will preserve their habitat and allow for spawning. It also means many more years for skiers to use the ski slopes without concern for the creek's banks eroding into the ski lift."

The banks' erosion was attributed to carrying, on average, nine inches of soil a year off the edge of the bank and into Irondequoit Creek. The bank improvement project involved placing heavy stone, six to eight feet high, along 275 linear feet of the creek adjacent to the park's downhill ski lift and 80 linear feet adjacent to a picnic area on the opposite side of Woolston Road. To help reinforce the banks, the Monroe County Parks' Horticulture staff will place plants along the creek this fall.

The project was subsidized by a combination of County capital improvement funds and a matching grant from the New York State Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996 administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

C.P. Ward Inc. built the stone fill structures with assistance from County Parks employees.

The water wheel is located near the East Area Shelter and Wadhams Lodge. It was once part of the blasting powder mill, from which the park derived its name, and stood from 1852 to 1933. The wheel deteriorated over the years and

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was inoperable due to a worn out central rod. The Parks Department replaced the central rod and restored the raceway that supplies the water to turn the wheel.

“I am proud that the Parks Department was able to repair the water wheel, restoring its historic and aesthetic value to the park,” said Doyle. “I hope people are able to visit the operating water wheel and appreciate its place in time.”

Doyle presented the League of Women Voters with a certificate of appreciation for their efforts in monitoring the creek, since 1999, as part of the Monroe County Water Quality Bureau’s Community Water Watch Program. The team collects and analyzes benthic macroinvertebrates (aquatic insect larvae) four times a year by wading into the stream. Macroinvertebrates are an excellent indicator of the health of a stream. The team is comprised of Joyce Pearson (team leader), Chris Fredette, Ann Jones, and Peela Hooke.

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